

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
NPSTC Broadband Task Force and Public)	WT Docket No. 06-150
Safety Spectrum Trust Technical)	
Recommendations for 700MHz Broadband)	
Deployments and)	PS Docket No. 06-229
)	
Implementing a Nationwide, Broadband,)	
Interoperable Public Safety Network in the 700		
MHz Band		

**COMMENTS OF
THE CITY OF SEATTLE**

I. INTRODUCTION

On March 17, 2010, the Commission requested public comment on the Report of the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council ("NPSTC") Broadband Task Force ("BBTF"), as well as the response of the Public Safety Spectrum Trust ("PSST") to the BBTF Report¹. The Commission also requested comment on the role of the BBTF Report in moving toward the goal of a nationally interoperable public safety broadband network in the 700 MHz band. The Bureau specifically requested comments from those entities that filed for waivers of the Commission's rules in order to begin using the public safety 700 MHz spectrum in their geographic areas². Furthermore, a senior official of the City of Seattle co-chaired the Governance Subcommittee of the NPSTC Broadband Task Force.

¹ Public Notice, *Comment Sought on NPSTC Broadband Task Force and Public Safety Spectrum Trust Technical Recommendations for 700 MHz Public Safety Broadband Deployments*, WT Docket No. 06-150, PS Docket No. 06-229, DA 10-458 (PSHSB rel. Mar. 17, 2010) ("Public Notice").

² The City of Seattle is has requested such a waiver ("City of Seattle Waiver Request")

II. COMMENTS FILED BY OTHERS

The City of Seattle has reviewed comments submitted by the District of Columbia (“DC”) the San Francisco Bay Area Region (“Bay Area”) and the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (“LA-RICS”). These three regions or jurisdictions have each requested Waivers to construct in the 700 MHz spectrum, as has the City of Seattle. The City of Seattle largely agrees with many of the comments submitted by these three entities, specifically:

1. The Commission should grant the waiver requests of these four jurisdictions.

Networks built under these waivers should not be exceptions to the goals of national interoperability, but instead should be real-life working systems built in compliance with the BBTF Report’s recommendations which can ultimately be connected together with other systems to form the national interoperable wireless public safety broadband network envisioned by Congress and the FCC.
2. The BBTF recommendations generally provide the framework which will realize the vision stated in paragraph II-1 above.
3. The City of Seattle specifically endorses this comment: “As stated in the Term Sheet, the guiding principle of the relationship between the early builder and the PSBL is that the early builder would, as much as possible under Commission rules and subject to the recommendations in the BBTF Report, take on the rights and obligations of the PSBL license in the early builder’s geographic area, limited only to the extent that the PSBL would retain any rights and obligations necessary to ensure national interoperability. In its re-write of the BBTF Term Sheet, the PSST has strayed from that guiding principle, retaining more authority than contemplated by the BBTF.” (DC Comments, page 6)
4. “Much remains to be done “to develop an interoperability standard, compliance with which would be sufficient to ensure interoperability among disparate networks. In

addition to requirements to ensure interoperability, public safety and the Commission should also take measures to ensure affordability and sustainability, maximizing public safety's influence in the marketplace and aligning it with commercial-scale production of devices and network equipment.” (DC Comments). The work commissioned by NIST in the Public Safety Communications Research (PSCR) along with the Boulder and District of Columbia test and demonstration projects will help develop these standards.

5. The FCC, NIST, PSST, public safety and entities granted Waivers to build should work together to establish a network evolution plan.
6. There should be a nationwide interoperable network design model and an organization should be identified to own that model, which can be used by Waiver-granted entities for construction of local networks as well as by the PSST and FCC to stitch local networks together into a national interoperable wireless broadband network (see also II-1 above).
7. “While the concept of network sharing between commercial and public safety entities has evolved substantially since the BBTF Report, the architecture and implications of such an approach on LTE network element interoperability must be defined to evaluate impacts on such issues as reliability, policy management, provisioning, and network management functions.” (DC Comments)
8. “The Risk to Early Builders carries a Cost to Public Safety Standards Development” (DC Comments). The FCC, in granting waivers, should understand this, and therefore should encourage and support these pioneering efforts to minimize the risks. Insofar as possible, monetary grants from existing or proposed programs administered by DHS and the Department of Commerce, and technical support from NIST, the FCC and others will help minimize these risks and maximize the lessons learned for constructing the rest of the nationwide network.

9. The City of Seattle, reinforcing the Bay Area comments (page 2) “urges the Commission to move forward on its long-pending waiver petition expeditiously in the wake of the National Broadband Plan submitted to Congress last month. It is important for the Commission to adopt those PSST and BBTF recommendations that foster meaningful *and* prompt deployment, granting the maximum authority to regional/local builders to construct while retaining the authority with the Public Safety Broadband Licensee (‘PSBL’) necessary to achieve interoperability in the spectrum across the nation.”
10. The City of Seattle is also concerned about implementing all the technical requirements at the onset of construction, e.g. SMS-MMS messaging (echoing comments made by the Bay Area and LA-RICS). “Implementation of SMS-MMS Messaging would likely leverage legacy 2G/3G interfaces in the near-term, which are inconsistent with the longer-term direction of an all-IP, IMS (IP Multimedia Subsystem) based approach, thus increasing the risk that public safety licensees will incur costly retrofits.” (LA-RICS comments).
11. The City of Seattle agrees with comments made by the San Francisco Bay area about the D Block (Bay Area Comments, page 3).
 - a. The City of Seattle believes that a great deal will be learned about bandwidth and spectrum requirements through the PSCR tests and demonstrations. Furthermore, as waiver requests are granted and public safety networks constructed, much more will be learned.
 - b. These tests, plus existing documented studies (New York Police Department) argue for placing an auction of the “D Block” on hold until more information about capacity and bandwidth requirements can be obtained in the field.

- c. Furthermore, both the Bay Area and the entities in the central Puget Sound region, led by the City of Seattle, will be conducting detailed applications and bandwidth studies over the next year.
 - d. Finally, while the FCC has promised, in the National Broadband Plan, to find additional spectrum for public safety, such spectrum will almost undoubtedly not be in the 700 MHz band which has propagation characteristics (building penetration) vital to the public safety via the work of firefighters, emergency medical personnel and law enforcement. This fact also argues for a re-allocation of the D Block or, at the very least, a delay in auctioning it.
12. The City of Seattle agrees with the Bay Area Comments regarding funding of the PSST. “The PSST’s comments in Recommendation 1.e.vii (“Agreement”) suggest the Operators provide funding to the PSST to support its responsibilities and management. The San Francisco Bay Area Region believes that the PSBL should be able to recover some “reasonable” fees for coordination and management responsibilities of this network from regional builders comparable to fees for frequency coordination activities. It would be our assumption that these fees alone may not be sufficient to allow the PSST to adequately execute their mission. The San Francisco Bay Area therefore believes that the FCC should provide program funding through the Public Safety Division or the Federal Government through the budget of the Department of Homeland Security (OIC).”
13. The City of Seattle agrees with the Bay Area Comments regarding Governance and the composition of the Board of the PSST. The City of Seattle also “believes the composition of the Board of the PSST requires the addition of new members to adequately reflect public safety within urban areas. While this issue is not addressed directly in the BBTF recommendations, we are aware that the Chair of the PSST is in agreement with adding additional seats at the PSST table.” We, as well as The San

Francisco Bay Area region, “support the addition of representatives from: the Major Sheriffs Association, the Metro Fire Chiefs and the Major Cities Police Chiefs to provide a balanced public safety perspective “

14. The City of Seattle agrees with the Bay Area Comments regarding the Operator Advisory Committee (OAC) of the PSST: The City of Seattle also supports “the Operator Advisory Committee (OAC), and that participation by local builders/Operators in the OAC should be a condition of the Agreement or granting of any ‘early builder’ waiver.”

III. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

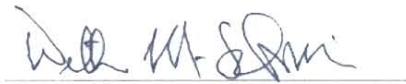
Certain of the PSST’s comments in Section 1 (“Agreement”) suggest the PSBL can impose prioritization on early builders; the City of Seattle believes the PSBL should be able to determine standards for interoperability of local prioritization decisions, but not determine which users get priority.

IV. CONCLUSION

The City of Seattle, along with the District of Columbia, the San Francisco Bay Area Region, and LA-RICS, supports many of the PSST and BBTF Recommendations. The City of Seattle also firmly believes the basic principle for granting waivers to local/regional jurisdictions to build in the public safety broadband spectrum of the 700 MHz band should require that the local/regional builder receive maximum authority granted to the PSBL itself via the FCC’s license with the exception of any authority and obligations the PSBL is required to retain in order to ensure national interoperability. Finally, the City of Seattle urges the FCC, in its further rulemaking and granting of Waivers, continue to recognize and support the rights and responsibilities public safety and general government agencies who will actually build these networks to protect the

people of the United States, both in day-to-day emergencies as well as in natural and human-caused disasters.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill M. Schrier", is positioned above a horizontal line.

**WILLIAM M. SCHRIER
CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER
CITY OF SEATTLE**

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I. GOVERNANCE

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the San Francisco Bay Area Region generally supports the PSST and BBTF Recommendations and appreciated being involved in the process of developing these bodies of work and documents. We believe that our regional public safety broadband strategy will prove to be a replicable and cost effective model for a mission critical public safety network. We need our network to be reliable and available when the earthquake faults "slip", when firemen rush into burning buildings and police officers lay their lives on the line to protect their community.

Respectfully submitted,



Sheriff Greg Ahern, Alameda County
As Executive Sponsor of BayWEB
And the Regional Mutual Aid Coordinator

And



Laura A. Phillips, General Manager
Bay Area Urban Area Security Initiative
On behalf of the San Francisco Bay Area
Interoperable Communications participants
For BayRICS and BayWEB.

April 6, 2010